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IN THE CLAIMS

**Claim 1.** Cancel

**Claim 2.** The mounting system of claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein said winch is electrically powered.

**Claim 3.** Cancel

**Claim 4.** Cancel

**Claim 5.** The mounting system of claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein said means for attaching said second end of said mounting plate to said fixed object is a shackle.

**Claim 6.** The mounting system of claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein said guide plate can pivot with respect to said mounting plate from an angle of approximately 90 degrees to an angle such that the desired orientation is achieved during operation, and

said angles being measured from a plane of said mounting plate relative to a plane of said guide plate.

**Claim 7.** The mounting system of claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein said flex plate is made from high tension flexible steel.

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**Claim 8.** The mounting system of claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein said winch is attached to said mounting plate by means of a plurality of bolts.

**Claim 9.** The mounting system of claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein said means for attaching said second end of said ~~support~~ mounting plate to said mounting plate is a plurality of bolts.

**Claim 10.** (New) A mounting system for a winch, said mounting system comprising:

- a mounting plate having a first end and a second end,
- a flex plate made from a flexible material,
- said flex plate having a first end and a second end,
- said second end of said flex plate is attached to said mounting plate,
- and
- said first end of said flex plate is free of said mounting plate,
- whereby said flex plate can flex with respect to said mounting plate,
- a guide plate having a first end and a second end,
- said second end of said guide plate being mounted to said first end of said mounting plate by a hinged connection,
- whereby said guide plate can pivot with respect to said mounting plate,
- a cable guide securely attached to said first end of said guide plate,
- means for securely attaching said second end of said mounting plate to a fixed object, and

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a cable drum mounted adjacent said support plate and said flex plate,  
said cable drum resting on said first end of said flex plate.